

Trail Plan For Accessibility In California State Parks

**Accessibility Section
Acquisition and Development Division**



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California State Parks Acquisition and Development Division Accessibility Section

Trail Plan for Accessibility

Department Mission Statement: *To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.*

1.0 Introduction

California State Parks (the Department) is responsible for the maintenance and management of over 1,500 trails and pedestrian routes throughout the most biologically diverse state in the nation. State Park trails provide a wide variety of experiences to the visitor, from outstanding vistas, including opportunities for wildlife viewing, to access to significant natural and cultural features in an unparalleled range of environmental settings. These routes are an integral component of the many programs and facilities that the Department is charged to interpret, maintain, and protect. This plan serves as an evaluation of the Department's pedestrian and multi-use trails, focused on improving opportunities for visitors with disabilities. It outlines the steps relative to trails that the Department has taken and will take in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

All programs, services, and activities offered by a public entity must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Since hiking is considered one of the major recreational activities offered by California State Parks it is necessary to evaluate the current trail system in order to identify the trail opportunities offered to visitors with disabilities. It is then necessary to determine which trails, or trail experiences, must be made accessible to ensure program-wide access to trails. The majority of trails in existence today were built long before the principles of accessibility were conceived. However emerging trail design concepts are beginning to eliminate obstacles such as stairs and excessive linear grades, which often prohibit users with disabilities from enjoying trails.

Federal guidelines that contain technical provisions for accessible trails are currently being developed and may not become adopted as law until 2002. But for years the Department has made efforts to provide trails that are useable by persons with a variety of mobility impairments by incorporating existing access requirements for the built environment into the design and layout of trails where feasible. Trail specialists within the Department have been recognized nationally

for their participation in creating design standards that incorporate the maximum level of accessibility while minimizing the negative effects on the environment. It is through their extensive experience that the Department maintains the position that access can only be achieved to the maximum extent allowed by the environmental and cultural conditions present at each trail location. Furthermore, the potential for improving existing trails for accessibility can only be fully determined by persons with extensive trail building experience.

This plan describes the process by which trails were evaluated. It includes the names and locations of trails that the Department considers accessible and identifies construction projects for new and existing trails that will complete the Department's commitment to providing program-wide access to trails. It further identifies policy changes and actions that the Department will take to ensure continued programmatic access and to ensure that all trail users can identify trails that match their level of ability.

1.1 Court Order

On June 22, 1999 the Department was ordered by United States District Judge Charles R. Breyer to implement a plan of action to evaluate existing trails in order to identify the type of trail experiences provided at each unit that has trails and to identify those trails that are:

- “partly or fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and,”
- “due to the topography on which they are situated, are potential candidates to be made partly or fully accessible to persons with disabilities.”

The Department was required to identify the nature and frequency of barriers to accessibility and to address the feasibility of removing barriers on the above-mentioned trails. The Department was further ordered to create a proposed plan for providing program-wide access to trails along with a schedule for barrier removal. The court order states that this plan may serve as a transition plan pursuant to Title II of the ADA.

1.2 Legislative Mandate

Title II of the ADA prohibits state and local governments from discriminating against persons with disabilities or from excluding their participation or denying them benefits of programs, services or activities. It states that a public entity must reasonably modify its policies, practices or procedures to avoid this type of discrimination. Additionally, Section 504 of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in the programs or activities of any organization that receives federal financial assistance.

With the intent to comply with the law the Department has previously made major investments through training, technology and many trail improvement projects. Yet in determining what constitutes reasonable modification as it relates to trails, the Department must consider several critical influences on its ability to provide and maintain accessible trail conditions. In many administrative districts, staff is inexperienced with new techniques related to accessible trail design and is therefore unable to recognize many accessible trail alternatives. Volunteers often perform trail improvement projects and maintenance on trails, and maintaining accessible conditions will undoubtedly require additional staff dedication to trails. In the past, many trail improvement projects have been determined less important than improvements to core park facilities and their completion has been limited by shortcomings in the Department's budget.

The installation of accessible trails is also inhibited by the sensitivity of the natural and cultural features throughout the state. While the Department is dedicated to providing equal opportunities for all visitors, it is also committed to the protection and preservation of the state's most valuable resources. The Department does not have to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of its program or activity, would create a hazardous situation, or would represent an undue financial and administrative burden. While protecting the resources is of utmost importance, balancing access and resource protection is a challenge that the Department is prepared to meet by using good science, design and environmental review.

1.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, (ADAAG)

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) is the federal agency responsible for developing accessibility guidelines to ensure that new construction and alterations of facilities covered by Titles II and III of the ADA are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities. In 1994 the Board published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for various types of recreational facilities that were not previously covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, (ADAAG). The Board found that there was a lack of consensus among parties affected by the guidelines on issues regarding trails, as well as other outdoor developed areas. Therefore, The Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas was established in June 1997. This committee is comprised of members of the Access Board, members of the disabled community, owners and operators of outdoor-developed areas, Federal, State, and local land management agencies, trail designers, and trails groups. On September 30, 1999, this committee published its final report that includes proposed guidelines for accessible trails. At the time this plan was completed, the Access Board was preparing the guidelines for public comment,

and it is unclear how much the final rule will vary from the guidelines contained in the report. However, since they represent the clearest technical specifications to date, the Department used the proposed guidelines contained in this report as the basis under which qualifying trails were surveyed for accessibility.

Once adopted, the proposed federal guidelines for accessible trails will only apply to newly designed and constructed multiuse and pedestrian trails or altered portions of existing multiuse and pedestrian trails connecting to a designated trailhead or existing accessible trails.

1.4 Programmatic Access

A public entity's services, programs or activities, when viewed in their entirety must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities. This standard applies to all existing facilities of a public entity. Yet there are currently no legislative criteria developed to further define and clarify this concept as it relates to trails. The activity of hiking means different things to different people and trail users have a very broad range of abilities regardless of whether they have a recognized disability or not. Thus the concept of individual choice based upon the desired degree of challenge must be addressed when contemplating program-wide access. While only trails that meet all of the technical specifications for accessible design may truly be considered compliant, many users with disabilities may find more varied and rewarding opportunities provided by trails that are designed to accommodate the maximum amount of accessibility for a specific environment. Clearly the proposed guidelines are designed to meet the needs of most persons with disabilities but not all. By striving to build trails to the maximum amount of accessibility the Department hopes to accommodate those users that seek a variety of challenging experiences commensurate with their ability.

It is not disputed that there are cultural and environmental conditions present in state parks that may prohibit the installation of fully compliant trails. The proposed federal guidelines contain exceptions to compliance that address these issues and yet it is the Departments intention to apply the principals of barrier free design on all future projects wherever feasible whether or not an exception exists. Barrier free trail design does not always result in trails that meet the proposed guidelines. However, old style trail building techniques often built in barriers to accessibility where barrier free design makes every effort to avoid them. A complete description of barrier free design can be found section 2.4.

Viewing the trail system in its entirety is necessary to evaluate what may constitute program-wide access, however as directed by, and due to the time constraints of the court order, trails that are located in areas of steep topography were not extensively evaluated by this process. Therefore managers and other staff responsible for identifying potential accessible trail projects were directed to give special consideration to trails that contain significant features or unique experiences regardless of their topographical location. They were further directed to identify projects that would represent the primary environmental settings and experiences offered by trails throughout the various parks.

To determine what constitutes the most important, unique, and significant experiences that are provided by trails many factors must be considered. The diversity of our people and their specific interests, the varied environmental settings, and the broad variety of unique plant and animal species prevalent in California present a complex set of criteria on which to base decisions about what trails are most significant. Additionally, many State Parks serve as refuge to threatened or endangered plant or animal species, and the need to preserve these critical habitats often outweighs desires to improve recreational opportunities.

For the organizational purposes of this plan the Department chose to group the Department's 266 state parks into 12 travel regions. These travel regions are also used on the California State Parks website, magazine, and by the California Department of Tourism in its electronic and print media. The public is more familiar with these regions than they are with the Department's administrative districts and they serve as a basis with which to view the geographic distribution of trail experiences offered.

2.0 Past Practices

The majority of trails in existence today were constructed long before the concept of accessible trail design. Still others were inherited through parkland acquisition and once served as logging and fire roads. In order to properly manage trail projects, the Department has developed a matrix designed to objectively group trails into one of five classes. Class I trails receive the highest maintenance priority and with Classes II, III, and IV the maintenance priorities diminish respectively. Trails that are considered to be accessible always fall into the Class I category.

Throughout the Department, various administrative districts have spent varying amounts of resources maintaining and improving existing trails. Therefore the condition of trails throughout the State is commensurate with the level of staff time and funds allocated. Following are previous actions that the Department has taken in order to inform users and to provide accessible and barrier free trails.

2.1 Pending and Completed Projects

There are currently 95 trails or portions of trails spread across the state that meet the proposed guidelines. Prior to any federal guidance the Department constructed accessible trails and routes based upon the Department Trails Handbook, developed in 1990, that contains a chapter on accessibility. The departmental guidelines contained in this chapter were derived from existing guidelines for the built environment and far exceed those in the proposed federal

guidelines. Beyond the trails that meet the proposed guidelines there are many others that are barrier free and useable by the majority of persons with disabilities.

Projects to improve trail conditions are constantly underway throughout the state. There are projects identified in this report that are either currently funded and/or under construction at this time. Other projects not mentioned here are ongoing due to the necessity to mitigate resource damage and/or improve visitor safety.

2.2 Universal Trail Assessment Process

In 1997 the Department adopted the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). UTAP was developed by Beneficial Designs Inc.¹, and is designed in part to provide trail access information to users of all abilities. This process requires that each trail be thoroughly measured by recording the grade, width, cross slope, surface firmness, tread obstacles, and other features at short intervals along the trail. The recorded data can then be used to provide information for signage, trail brochures, and to inform users about trail conditions. This information allows all visitors to decide whether they can negotiate the trail safely and successfully.

UTAP is a clear solution to the common frustration that all users face when they are unaware of trail conditions and therefore unable to determine whether a trail matches their ability. It will open the door of opportunity to many people who require the use of assistive mobility devices by describing the surface conditions, grades and clearances at the entry point of the trail. By providing this information to the public in the form of trailhead signage, the Department believes that many barrier free trails, and not necessarily accessible trails, will become the favorites of avid hikers with disabilities.

As of the date of this report more than 70% of existing pedestrian trails have been measured by UTAP. Members of the Department are currently working with Beneficial Designs to optimize the software that stores and organizes the information. However the updated software, known as Trailware, is not readily available at this time and is still under development.

2.3 Design Charrette

The North Coast Redwoods District's Roads, Trails and Resource Maintenance Section (RTR), is a prototype program in the Department. It is the largest and

¹ Beneficial Designs is a corporation that develops assistive and adaptive technology, performs rehabilitation research, legal consultation, standards developments and is the producer of UTAP and the Trail Explorer website.

most advanced trail design and construction program in the western United States. Members of the RTR Section have partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Eureka Chamber of Commerce and advocacy groups such as Whole Access and Humboldt Access to form a design charrette that is attempting to produce a systematic process for determining the maximum level of access that can be achieved on each trail without compromising the natural and cultural resources. The process will be generic enough so that it can be applied to all trails regardless of their ecological conditions or environmental setting. It is being documented via videotape and a written manual so that it can be used as a training guide for others wanting to improve accessibility in their trails systems.

To date the Charrette team has evaluated and made improvements to two trails at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. They have identified many commonalities between accessible trail design and resource protection and have worked to devise acceptable solutions where accessible design cannot be fully accomplished. Their work has reinforced the notion that even when all of the criteria for an accessible trail cannot be met, there are disabled users who will find the conditions appropriate to their levels of ability. The work of the design charrette represents one of the first practical applications of the proposed guidelines.

2.4 Training

The Department has held formal trail maintenance and management courses at the William Penn Mott Training Center since 1995. Since then, the Department has provided its employees and others with training on all aspects of trail construction, maintenance and management. To date 54 Department employees and 31 outside agency personnel have completed the training. Trail construction classes teach the concept of barrier free trail design. Barrier free design is the practice of laying out hiking trails following curvilinear alignment that produces moderate linear grades without abrupt grade changes. These trail design and construction techniques eliminate trail structures and features that may inhibit or eliminate access to individuals with mobility impairments. Structures such as steps, waterbars, open rock culverts, and step through drains are either eliminated or replaced with structures that do not inhibit accessibility. The trail tread is constructed to a width that allows wheelchair users to have access to the trail regardless of linear grade, cross slope or tread surface deficiencies. Natural obstructions such as limbs and downed logs are removed. The intent of barrier free design is to maximize the level of accessibility that the landform allows without compromising park resources. Barrier free design recognizes that everyone has different levels of mobility, and although the trail may not be useable to those individuals with severe mobility impairments, the majority of people with disabilities can use it. The Department Trails Handbook, first published in 1990, reinforces this concept in each chapter and includes a chapter on fully accessible

trail design. The benefits of barrier free design are twofold. Not only does this form of trail design provide maximum accessibility for the user, it tends to minimize the impacts on the resources surrounding the trail corridor. Participants of trails training also receive training on the Departments Trails Classification Matrix System and at least twelve hours of instruction on the Universal Trail Assessment Process.

3.0 Process Overview

For the purposes of this plan an abbreviated trail survey process was developed as the main criteria for determining which trails to improve. The Department began this process in February 2000 with the initiation of the first of two surveys that were designed to accomplish the following:

- To confirm that any trails that the Department considers to be accessible actually meet the proposed guidelines for accessibility.
- To develop a list of potential candidate trails to be made accessible, along with sufficient information for the Department to make preliminary decisions about whether those trails actually should be made accessible.

3.1 General Characteristic Survey

The General Characteristics Data Sheet was sent to District Superintendents in each of the 27 administrative districts for assignment to appropriate field staff on February 2, 2000. This survey captured general information on all existing trails including information necessary to provide managers and policy makers with an overview of the experiences and trail settings provided within each park unit that has trails. The General Characteristics Data Sheet included questions about prominent features and the estimated average grade, among many other things.² Information from the completed General Characteristics Data Sheets was compiled into a statewide database.

From the General Characteristic Data Sheets, the answers to the questions about grade were used as the main criteria to determine whether a trail would be further evaluated. Only those trails in which the average grade was less than nine percent overall or within the first ¼ mile were subject to the second survey. The value of nine percent was chosen due to the existing accessibility guidelines for ramps in the built environment. Accessible ramps are required to have no greater than an eight percent slope.

² See Exhibit A, contained in the Final Version of the PLAN OF ACTION, dated March 9, 2000.

3.2 Physical Characteristics Survey

The second survey, known as the Physical Characteristics Survey³, was sent to administrative districts during the week of March 21, 2000. This survey was designed to do the following:

- Evaluate trails for compliance with the proposed guidelines for accessibility.
- Identify barriers to accessibility.
- Provide information about the nature and frequency of identified barriers and give brief descriptions of how they could or could not be removed.
- Determine whether identified barriers to accessibility could be eliminated without:
 1. Causing substantial harm to the resources.
 2. Substantially altering the setting or intended purpose of the trail.
 3. Requiring prohibited construction methods or materials.⁴

The results of the Physical Characteristics Surveys were also entered into the database. Based upon the answers to specific questions on this survey, a list of potential candidate trails was established. The Potential Candidate trails are those trails in which identified grade and surface barriers were initially determined to be feasible to remove, based on the above-mentioned criteria, and those trails in which no barriers were identified within at least the first ¼ mile.

A list of accessible trails was also established as a result of this process. This list contains trails that meet all of the proposed guidelines for their entire length or for at least the first ¼ mile.

3.3 Project Identification

Results generated from the surveys were distributed to each Administrative District. Meetings were held between Division Chiefs, District Superintendents, Accessibility Section personnel and other appropriate field staff to review the results and identify and prioritize trail improvement projects that would best represent the primary settings and experiences offered by the trails in the parks under their jurisdiction. These meetings gave managers the opportunity to further evaluate and analyze the survey results with input from several district specialists familiar with the circumstances surrounding each trail. In some instances, trails that were originally deemed potential candidates for accessibility improvements by the individual who completed the surveys, were eliminated as such after discussion by the meetings participants. In other cases, trails that

³ See Exhibit B, contained in the Final Version of the PLAN OF ACTION, dated March 9, 2000.

⁴ As defined in the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report, dated September 30, 1999.

were not originally considered to have potential for improvements were reclassified as possible candidates because of their significance, or else entirely new trail projects were identified. District Superintendents were directed to prioritize projects based upon the following:

- Visitation and/or attendance at the various trail locations.
- Trails that are unique or those that contain or lead to significant features.
- Each of the different trail settings and experiences offered.
- Geographic distribution.

Trail projects were then evaluated on a statewide basis and priorities developed based on geographic location of existing accessible trails and the perceived benefit of each identified trail project. The Department's goal was to develop a statewide distribution of trails that would provide for accessible trail experiences in a variety of settings throughout California.

This plan does not fully take into account the feasibility of altering existing routes and the environmental impacts of these recommendations. It is only through a complete process of review that project feasibility can be fully determined. Therefore, the Department reserves the right to change priorities regarding the completion of any trail improvement project described herein until all pertinent reviews are completed.

4.0 Findings

The results of the abbreviated trail survey process show accessible trails in 10 of the 12 State Travel Regions. These trails represent the efforts of volunteers and employees to provide access to many of the state's varied environmental settings and prominent features. Projects to expand the opportunities to visitors with disabilities are currently underway and many others that have the potential to broaden the trail opportunities for people with disabilities have been identified. Overall statistical results show the following:

- 1565 trails were surveyed by the General Characteristics Survey.
- 595 trails were surveyed by the Physical Characteristics Survey.
- 95 trails were found to be accessible for at least the first ¼ mile.
- 59 park units contain accessible trails.
- 3.24% of the total trail miles are accessible.

Beyond its intended purpose to identify accessible trails and potential accessible trail projects, this process has revealed some other issues that have a bearing upon the Department's course of action.

In addition to the trails that meet each provision of the proposed guidelines there are many others that may be useable by persons with disabilities. The survey

process was not designed to capture all of the details about these barrier free trails. Their characteristics generally include grades that somewhat exceed the proposed guidelines and surfaces that are less than firm and stable. As technological advances in the field of mobility devices increase, the limitations presented by tread and grade barriers will decrease.

Perhaps the greatest barrier to accessibility on trails is the lack of information regarding trail conditions. While the Department may be able to immediately post signage on those trails that are fully compliant, it is only by the completion of the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP), that information pertinent to accessibility can be accurately imparted about the conditions of other trails. The opportunities for users with disabilities could be greatly increased when they are given information about trail conditions. According to the proposed guidelines, trails can still be considered accessible when one or more of the exceptions within a specific technical provision are present. In that situation UTAP is the best way to impart this information.

Weather conditions and excessive or inappropriate use can cause trail conditions to change rapidly. UTAP should be performed under dry or normal conditions and trails should be reassessed after major alterations or at least every three to five years.

Accessible trails will require increased maintenance activities to ensure that they remain compliant. With limited resources available to each park unit, trails, like much of the State Park System's infrastructure, will deteriorate if maintenance funding falls short.

Trail building experts within the Department estimate that the cost of building a trail that meets all of the proposed guidelines can be approximately two-times the cost of building a traditional trail. On average they estimate that construction of an accessible trail costs approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000 per mile.

There is a lack of agreement among trail professionals and others regarding the various types of trail settings and experiences, exactly what constitutes a significant experience, and the definition of the term prominent feature. Until these concepts are more clearly defined by the Access Board or by judicial rulings they cannot be uniformly applied toward defining programmatic access.

Accessible trail design and construction methods should produce trails that blend in with the natural setting and do not detract from the visitor's experience. Accessible trails should provide a high quality recreational experience for all trail users.

4.1 Findings by Travel Region

This section contains the specific findings of the abbreviated survey process organized by region. Brief descriptions of the regions are followed by a list of accessible trails and the Parks they are in. Included are the total distance in miles that the trail is accessible, the primary environmental setting of the trail and the type of experience provided by that trail.

4.1.1 Region 1 -- North Coast

51 State Parks, 39 with trails. 401 total trails, 25 accessible for 11.7 miles

Old and second growth redwood forests as well as rugged coastal environments characterize this region. There are 401 trails throughout 39 parks for a total of approximately 583 trail miles in this large region. Of these trails, 25 meet the proposed federal guidelines for accessible trails offering users with disabilities approximately 11.7 miles of hiking. The redwood setting is well represented throughout with many trails that give visitors the chance to experience the beauty of the California coast redwood. Many other environmental settings and experiences are represented by trails in the following parks:

Unit Name	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Anderson Marsh SHP				
	Anderson Flats Trail	0.80	Marsh	Interpretive
	Cache Creek Nature Trail	0.60	Marsh	Rural
Greenwood SB				
	Greenwood Creek Bluff Trail	0.27	Coastal Bluff	Rural
Hendy Woods SP				
	All Access Trail	0.53	Redwoods	Rural
Humboldt Redwoods SP				
	Founders Grove Trail	0.50	Redwoods	Rural
Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP				
	Stout Grove Loop Trail	0.50	Redwoods	Rural
MacKerricher SP				
	Laguna Point	0.60	Beach	Rural / Interpretive
Manchester SP				
	Environmental Camp Trail	0.38	Meadow	Rural / Wilderness
	KOA to Beach Trail	0.42	Meadow	Rural / Wilderness
Patrick's Point SP				
	Campfire Center Trail	0.22	Forest/Other	Rural
	Nature Trail / Native American Plants Trail	0.15	Forest/Other	Rural / Interpretive

Unit Name	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
	Patrick's Point Campfire Center Spur Trail	0.15	Forest/Other	Rural
	Patrick's Point Access Trail	0.09	Forest/Other	Rural
Prairie Creek Redwoods SP				
	Big Tree Trail	0.16	Redwoods	Rural
	Campfire Center Trail	0.34	Redwoods	Rural
	Prairie Creek Trail (Class I)	1.5	Redwoods	Rural
	Redwood Access Trail	0.26	Redwoods	Rural
	Revelation Trail	0.25	Redwoods	Interpretive
Richardson Grove SP				
	Nature Trail	0.50	Redwoods	Rural / Interpretive
Russian Gulch SP				
	(R.G.) Fern Canyon Trail	0.90	Redwoods	Backcountry / Wilderness
Salt Point SP				
	Salt Point H/C Trail	0.10	Coastal Bluff	Rural
Sonoma Coast SB				
	Vista Trail	1.00	Coastal Bluff	Rural
Sugarloaf Ridge SP				
	Meadow Trail	0.85	Meadow	Backcountry
Trinidad SB				
	Horse Access Trail	0.23	Forest/Other	Rural
Westport-Union Landing SB				
	Bluff Trail	0.40	Coastal Hills	Rural

4.1.2 Region 2 -- Shasta Cascade

12 State Parks, 8 with trails. 45 total trails, 11 accessible for 10.96 miles.

Rivers, waterfalls and lakes abound throughout this region as well as dormant volcanoes, historic sites and tremendous granite outcroppings. Eight park units

have a total of 45 trails equaling 71.6 miles. Of these, five parks have accessible trails that offer nearly 11 miles for the disabled user. The trails listed below provide access to many of the unique experiences offered in this region, such as fishing holes and a pioneer cemetery.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Bidwell-Sacramento River SP				
	Indian Fishery Nature Trail	0.50	Marsh	Rural
Castle Crags SP				
	Pacific Crest Trail	0.80	Forest/Other	Backcountry / Wilderness
	Primary Trail	0.25	Meadow	Interpretive
	Root Creek Trail	0.25	Mountain	Backcountry
Lake Oroville SRA				
	Bidwell Canyon Bike Trail	5.50	Foothills	Rural
	Chaparral Interp Trail	0.20	Foothills	Rural
	Loafer Creek Campfire Trail	0.23	Foothills	Rural
	Loafer Creek Day Use / Campground Trail	1.20	Foothills	Rural
McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial SP				
	Burney Creek Trail	1.00	Forest/Other	Backcountry
	Pioneer Cemetery	1.00	Forest/Other	Rural
William B. Ide Adobe SHP				
	Ide Adobe Knoll Trail	0.03	River	Rural

4.1.3 Region 3 -- Gold Country

20 State Parks, 11 with trails. 121 total trails, 3 accessible for 2.64 miles

Named for the historic significance of the parks in this region, the Gold Country ranges from the foothills west of the Sierra, through Sacramento and into its delta. There are 11 parks with trails totaling 155.2 miles. There are three accessible trails located within two parks in this region offering 2.64 miles of trail that meet the proposed guidelines.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Folsom Lake SRA				
	American River Bike Trail, Negro Bar to Hazel Ave.	0.38	Foothills	Urban
South Yuba River SP				
	Family Beach Area	0.05	Foothills	Backcountry
	Independence Trail	2.21	Foothills	Backcountry

4.1.4 Region 4 -- High Sierra

14 State Parks, 9 with trails. 69 total trails, 7 accessible for 0.81 miles

This mountainous region is known for its giant sequoias and riparian areas. The existing accessible trails allow visitors to witness the unique lakes of the region as well as the magnificent big trees. Building accessible and barrier free trails in most areas of this region is difficult due to the protected nature of the resources. There are nine parks with trails in this region offering over 42 miles of hiking. Five parks contain accessible trails totaling 0.81 miles.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Calaveras Big Trees SP				
	North Grove Three Senses Trail	0.13	Forest/Other	Wilderness
Donner Memorial SP				
	Ridge Campground to Lake	0.08	Forest/Other	Rural
	Splitrock to Boat Concession	0.13	Forest/Other	Backcountry
Emerald Bay SP				
	South Side of Vikingsholm	0.03	Forest/Other	Rural
	Vikingsholm to Visitors Center	0.03	Forest/Other	Backcountry

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Mono Lake Tufa SR				
	Boardwalk Interpretive Trail-County Park	0.28	Marsh	Interpretive
Sugar Pine Point SP				
	Lakeshore Disabled	0.13	Beach	Rural

4.1.5 Region 5 -- San Francisco Bay Area

37 State Parks, 26 with trails. 332 total trails, 17 accessible for 18.73 miles

While it is small geographically, this region is quite large if measured by the number of parks and their locations in relation to large population areas. The majority of trail experiences offered are coastal, but there are also redwood, foothill and mountain settings represented by 308.6 miles of trails in 26 parks. Eleven parks contain accessible trails totaling 18.73 miles. The redwood setting is represented at either end of this region and coastal zones, including access to the breeding grounds of the northern elephant seal may also be reached by accessible trails.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Ano Nuevo SR				
	Disabled Access Boardwalk	0.27	Beach	Rural
Benicia SRA				
	Hike / Bike Trail	0.75	Wetland	Urban
Big Basin Redwoods SP				
	Redwood Loop Trail	0.63	Redwoods	Interpretive
	Skyline to Sea (Waddell Beach to HK)	2.50	Forest/Other	Backcountry
Candlestick Point SRA				
	Bay Trail	1.00	Wetland	Urban
	Shoreline Trail	0.75	Wetland	Urban
Castle Rock SP				

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
	Service Road	0.92	Forest/Other	Backcountry
	Whole Access	0.08	Forest/Other	Backcountry
China Camp SP				
	Back Ranch Campground	0.24	Forest/Other	Rural
Half Moon Bay SB				
	Coastside Trail	3.00	Beach	Urban
Henry Cowell Redwoods SP				
	Meadow Trail	0.50	Meadow	Backcountry
	Powdermill Fire	0.75	Forest/Other	Backcountry
	Redwood Loop	0.70	Redwoods	Interpretive
	River Trail	1.20	Redwoods	Backcountry
Manresa SB				
	(Upland) Camp Access	0.81	Coastal Bluff	Rural
Natural Bridges SB				
	Monarch Trail	0.13	Forest/Other	Interpretive
Samuel P. Taylor SP				
	Cross Marin Trail	4.5	Redwoods	Rural / Interpretive

4.1.6 Region 6 -- Central Coast

41 State Parks, 30 with trails. 300 total trails, 19 accessible for 6.82 miles

This region stretches from the Monterey Bay to the edge of Los Angeles County and is home to some of California's most magnificent coastline. There are over 395 miles of trails located in 30 parks, primarily in beach and coastal hills settings. Ten parks contain over six miles of accessible trails including access to unique wetlands, coastal hills and opportunities for great wildlife viewing.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Asilomar SB				
	Access Trail #1	0.04	Beach	Rural
	Access Trail #11	0.07	Coastal Bluff	Rural
	Access Trail #19	0.06	Coastal Bluff	Rural
	Access Trail #24 (Rocky Shores)	0.08	Coastal Bluff	Rural
	Asilomar Dunes Boardwalk	0.60	Coastal	Rural
	Shoreline Trail	0.25	Coastal Bluff	Rural
La Purisima Mission SHP				
	El Camino Real (Historic/Fire Road)	0.78	Coastal Hills	Rural
	La Rancheria Trail	0.31	Coastal Hills	Rural
Marina SB				
	Reservation Road Boardwalk	0.30	Beach	Backcountry
Montana de Oro SP				
	Holloway Garden	0.02	Coastal Hills	Interpretive
	Sand Spit Trail	0.30	Beach	Wilderness
Morro Bay SP				
	Museum Paved Loop Trail	0.15	Coastal Hills	Rural
Moss Landing SB				
	Beach Access (South) Trail	0.06	Coastal	Rural
Oceano Dunes SVRA				
	Oso Flaco Lake Trail	1.00	Coastal	Rural / Interpretive
Pfeiffer Big Sur SP				
	Nature Trail	0.30	Forest/Other	Interpretive
Point Lobos SR				
	Cypress Grove Trail	0.25	Coastal Bluff	Backcountry
	Sand Hill Trail (AKA Sea Lion Point Trail)	0.40	Coastal Bluff	Backcountry
San Simeon SP				
	San Simeon Loop	0.60	Marsh	Rural
	Moonstone Bluff	1.00	Coastal Bluff	Rural

4.1.7 Region 7 -- Central Valley

14 State Parks, 5 with trails. 22 total trails, 0 accessible

This region encompasses the heart of California's agricultural roots. Most of the parks here are located upon lakes or rivers and few have trails. The region includes only 22 trails with more than one-half of the 31 trail miles located at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area. The primary environmental trail settings are foothills and riparian. Out of the five parks that have trails, none were found to be accessible.

4.1.8 Region 8 -- Los Angeles County

16 State Parks, 13 with trails. 82 total trails, 3 accessible for 0.9 miles

Surprising to many, rugged areas abound in this metropolitan region. The majority of trails are located within parks that hold preserve status in mountain, foothill or coastal settings. There are 82 trails in 13 parks for over 135 miles. Accessible trails are located in two parks totaling 0.9 miles.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Malibu Creek SP				
	Las Virgenes Connector Trail	0.40	Meadow	Rural
	Visual Impaired Trail	0.40	Meadow	Interpretive
Malibu Lagoon SB				
	Malibu Lagoon Loop Trail	0.10	Coastal	Urban

4.1.9 Region 9 -- Orange County

5 State Parks, 4 with trails. 8 total trails, 3 accessible for 2.25 miles

This region is known primarily for its expansive beaches, yet it includes ecologically sensitive wetlands and wooded canyons. Included as one of eight trails in this region, the El Morro Canyon Trail system runs for 17 miles through wooded canyons and coastal hills. Currently, only the coastal setting is represented by 2.25 miles of accessible trails located in the parks listed below.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Bolsa Chica SB				
	Multi-use Beachfront Trail	1.00	Beach	Urban
Crystal Cove SP				
	Bluff Top Multi-use Trail	0.25	Coastal Bluff	Rural / Interpretive
Huntington SB				
	Multi-use Beachfront Trail	1.00	Beach	Urban

4.1.10 Region 10 -- San Diego County

12 State Parks, 7 with trails. 81 total trails, 4 accessible for 2.41 miles

This region contains California's southern-most beaches as well as mountain and historic parks. The primary settings represented by this regions trails are coastal and mountain. There are 120.2 miles of hiking trails located among seven parks. Accessible trails are located in three parks for a total of 2.41 miles.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
Border Field SP				
	North McCoy Trail	0.66	Marsh	Interpretive
	South McCoy Trail	1.00	Marsh	Backcountry
San Onofre SB				
	San Mateo Beach Access Trail	0.25	Coastal Bluff	Rural/ Interpretive
Torrey Pines SR				
	Discovery Trail	0.50	Coastal Bluff	Urban/Rural

4.1.11 Region 11 -- Inland Empire

5 State Parks, 5 with trails. 59 total trails, 4 accessible for 4.75 miles

This region encompasses oak-covered foothills to the west and rugged mountain parks to the east. The primary trail settings are foothills and mountains. While all five parks in this region contain trails offering nearly 170 miles of hiking, the

majority of trails are located at the relatively new Chino Hills State Park. Accessible trails are located in three of the most popular parks, including the unique California Citrus State Historic Park, offering 4.75 miles of hiking for users with disabilities.

Park Unit	Accessible Trail Name	Length	Setting	Experience
California Citrus SHP				
	Knoll Trail	0.75	Foothills	Rural
	Varietal Grove Trail	1.00	Foothills	Urban
Lake Perris SRA				
	Lake Perris Bike & Hike Trail	2.25	Foothills	Urban
Silverwood Lake SRA				
	Bike Trail Cleghorn	0.75	Foothills	Rural

4.1.12 Region 12 -- Deserts

6 State Parks, 5 with trails. 46 total trails, 0 accessible.

The Deserts region includes California's largest State Park, California's largest inland body of water, colorful rock formations, and spectacular limestone caverns. Five parks offer 136.7 miles of trails, all in the desert setting. Currently there are no accessible trails in this region.

5.0 Project Priorities

The Department has identified 46 accessible trail projects described in section 5.2 that represent approximately 27 additional accessible trail miles. The completion of these projects cannot be fully assured until they are reviewed as required by the California Environmental Quality Act, (CEQA). Depending on the location of the project there are several agencies that must review the project implications, approve the project scope, and grant permits based upon their evaluations. These agencies include The California Department of Fish and Game, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, The California Coastal Commission, The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, The Air Pollution Control Board, and others. Should any of the environmental review processes eliminate the feasibility of project completion, alternate projects that represent similar settings within the travel region will be pursued. The responsibility for ensuring

project implementation will reside with the ADA Program Manager of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

5.1 Project Criteria

Recognizing that there are many factors that would keep the Department from immediately making all of these trails fully accessible, the following criteria were used as the basis for prioritizing each trail improvement project.

- Geographical distribution.
- Environmental setting and experience.
- Trail uniqueness and the perceived feasibility of project completion.
- Level of use by the public.

5.2 Project List

This section contains the list of projects that the Department will strive to complete in order to provide program wide access to trails. Projects are listed in the order of regional importance and include brief descriptions, including the trail setting and experience provided, estimated cost, estimated length and projected start dates. These projects may not proceed unless the Department can secure adequate funding for their completion. The length of time it takes to complete environmental reviews is contingent upon the findings of those reviews and often, additional studies or seasonal work restrictions are required before trail construction can proceed.

Region/ Park Unit	Trail Name/Setting and Experience	Project Description / Length	Estimated Cost	Length	Start Date
Region 1					
Armstrong Redwoods SR	Pioneer Trail Redwoods / Interpretive	Fill and regrade.	\$356,000	0.9 mi.	
Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP	Cheatham Grove Trail Redwoods / Interpretive	Reroute excessive slopes. Install turnpikes, improve cross slope and tread width.	Funded \$80,792	0.53 mi.	Comp
Jack London SHP	Wolf House Trail Forest / Backcountry	Install new trail to Wolf House.	\$120,000	0.6 mi.	
Mendocino Headlands SP	Mendocino Headlands Trail Beach / Rural	Regrade trail, install bridge and improve surface.	\$355,000	2.4 mi.	
Anderson Marsh SHP	Cache Creek Nature Trail Marsh / Rural	Remove steps at end of boardwalk. Install additional boardwalk.	\$136,748	1.4 mi.	
Region 2					
McArthur- Burney Falls Memorial SP	Burney Creek Trail Forest / Backcountry	Improve surface conditions, install rest areas w/ benches.	\$12,000	1.0 mi.	

Plumas Eureka SP	Madora Lake Trail	Reconstruct/reroute trail.	\$150,000	1.3 mi.	
Lake Oroville SRA	Chaparral Interpretive Trail	Pave remainder of trail & install interpretive signage.	\$21,600	0.2 mi.	
Region/ Park Unit	Trail Name/Setting and Experience	Project Description / Length	Estimated Cost	Length	Start Date
Region 3					
Folsom Lake SRA	Doten's Cove Trail Foothills / Rural	New trail currently under construction.	Funded / under const.	0.3 mi.	1/01
Auburn SRA	Quarry Road Trail Foothills / Rural	Improve parking. Adjust slope at trailhead; install rest areas.	\$30,000	1.2 mi.	
Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	Gold Discovery Trail Foothills / Interpretive	Widen trail and improve surface conditions.	\$4,000	0.25 mi.	
Region 4					
Donner Memorial SP	Museum Interpretive Trail Forest / Interpretive	Remove excessive slopes and cross slope.	\$54,000	0.44 mi.	
Grover Hot Springs SP	Hot Springs Cut Off Meadow / Backcountry	Reconstruct trail. Project now underway.	\$48,000	0.37 mi.	
Calaveras Big Trees SP	North Grove Trail Forest / Wilderness	Reduce grade & improve surface.	\$163,000	1.3 mi.	
Sugar Pine Point SP	Bike Trail Segment 2 Forest Mountain / Rural	Install rest areas repair surface. Barrier-free beyond 1/4 mile.	\$120,000	0.25 mi.	
Region 5					
Mount Tamalpais SP	Verna Dunshee	Reroute and replace 3 bridges.	\$283,000	0.7 mi.	
Mount Diablo SP	Fire Interpretive Trail Mountain / Interpretive	Repair and extend A/C surface.	Grant funded	0.66 mi.	
China Camp SP	Mewok Meadows Meadow / Rural	Regrade and improve surface.	\$137,696	0.42 mi.	
Bean Hollow SB /Pebble Beach SB	Pebble Beach to Bean Hollow Trail Coastal Bluff / Rural	Realign trail, improve bridge approaches. Improve surface, trail entrenched.	\$150,000	1.0 mi.	
Mount Tamalpais SP	McKenna Fire Road Mountain / Rural	Regrade and improve surface.	\$45,122	0.10 mi.	
Wilder Ranch SP	Old Cove Landing Coastal Bluff / Interpretive	Recontour trail, improve surface and install 5 drainage x-ings.	\$31,800	1.25 mi.	
Sunset SB	Campfire Center Trail Coastal Hills / Rural	Recontour trailbed reroute 100', improve surface.	\$9,480	0.25 mi.	
Region 6					
El Capitan SB	Beachfront Trail Beach / Rural	Realign & improve surface to vista point.	\$34,344	0.2 mi.	

McGrath SB	McGrath Nature Trail Riparian / Rural	Install boardwalk.	Funded \$125,000	0.2 mi.	Comp.
Henry W. Coe SP	Live Oak Trail Foothills / Backcountry	Recontour, stabilize surface and install stream crossing.	\$35,503	0.45 mi.	
Region/ Park Unit	Trail Name/Setting and Experience	Project Description / Length	Estimated Cost	Length	Start Date
Point Mugu SP	Big Sycamore Canyon Fire Road Coastal Hills / Backcountry	Install rest areas and benches.	\$12,000	0.25 mi.	
Morro Bay SP	Marina Peninsula Trail Marsh / Wilderness	Improve surface, install passing/rest areas.	\$74,618	0.86 mi.	
Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP	Waterfall Trail Mountain / Rural	Improve approach & install rest areas.	\$33,000	0.5 mi.	
Region 7					
San Luis Reservoir SRA	Campground to Lake Overlook Foothills / Backcountry	Regrade trail and improve surface.	\$64,802	1.2 mi.	
Brannan Island SRA	Brannan Island Multi-purpose Trail Marsh / Rural	First District priority of 3-part project.	\$450,000	1.59 mi.	
Millerton Lake SRA	Blue Oak Trail Foothills / Rural	Reroute areas of excessive grade. Widen trail tread, install rest areas and passing spaces.	\$112,910	1.5 mi.	
Caswell Memorial SP	Riverlands Nature Trail Riparian / Rural	Modify existing trails to create an accessible multi-sensory loop.	Currently funded \$112,000	0.7 mi.	
Region 8					
Point Dume SB	Pt. Dume State Preserve Boardwalk Coastal Bluff / Interpretive	Project requires cooperative effort with the City of Malibu. Install accessible parking & route around gate.	\$24,000	0.25 mi.	
Saddleback Butte SP	Little Butte Trail Desert / Backcountry	Realign trail and improve surface.	\$174,400	0.4 mi.	
Malibu Lagoon SP	Malibu Bluffs Trail Loop Coastal Bluff / Rural	Realign and install rest areas and 1 bridge.	\$50,000	0.5 mi.	
Region 9					
Crystal Cove SP	Crystal Cove Loop Coastal / Hills Rural	New trail loop at El Morro Canyon.	\$100,000	0.6 mi.	
San Clemente SB	San Clemente Coastal Trail	Provide coastal access.	\$50,000 Grant Pending	0.35 mi.	
Region 10					
Cuyamaca Rancho SP	Cold Stream Trail Mountain / Backcountry	Realign trail to provide access to cultural resource area.	\$56,496	0.25 mi.	
Torrey Pines SR	Discovery Trail Coastal Bluff / Urban	Repair & improve surface conditions.	\$18,000	0.5 mi.	

Silver Strand SB	Crown Cove Trail Beach / Interpretive	Address parking issue by installing parking at trailhead or provide compliant route from existing parking.	\$48,000	0.75 mi.	
San Onofre SB	San Mateo Beach Access Trail	Install landing and overlook.	\$50,000	0.25 mi.	
Region/ Park Unit	Trail Name/Setting	Project Description / Length	Estimated Cost	Length	Start Date
Region 11					
Lake Perris SRA	Lake Perris Hike & Bike Trail Foothills / Lake / Urban	Construct culvert crossings to extend accessible length.	\$29,964	1.0 mi.	
Chino Hills SP	Upper Aliso Canyon Trail Foothills / Rural	Construct trail to overlook with interpretive panels.	\$62,160	0.25 mi.	
Silverwood Lake SRA	Pacific Crest Trail Foothills / Rural	Repair trail tread.	\$11,184	0.5 mi.	
Region 12					
Anza-Borrego Desert SP	Visitors Center Loop Trail (All Access Trail) Desert / Backcountry	Install interpretive panels, shade structures and extend to trail Borrego Palm Canyon Campground.	\$250,000	0.75 mi.	
Anza-Borrego Desert SP	Yaqui Well Trail Desert / Backcountry	Project will require significant reroute; surface improvements and rehab of old trail. 1+ mile	\$330,000	1.0 mi.	
Salton Sea SRA	Ironwood Nature Trail	Widen trail tread; install passing spaces. Improve surface conditions with soil stabilizer.	\$68,394	1.0 mi.	

6.0 Actions

These actions represent the steps that the Department considers will most rapidly benefit users with disabilities. They are based upon general and specific findings of the court ordered survey process and influenced by the Department's past accomplishments, the status of proposed federal guidelines, emerging design concepts, and the fiscal realities of the Department's budget.

- The Department shall begin implementation of the trail projects identified herein as soon as funding is secured. Should special funding for the completion of these projects be denied, the projects will be incorporated into each administrative districts budget proposals beginning in fiscal year 2002/03.
- The benefits of accessible and barrier free trails can only be fully realized if trail users are made aware of trail conditions. Therefore, the Department shall make the completion of the Universal Trail Assessment Process,

(UTAP), a top priority. The Department will continue to collaborate with Beneficial Designs to ensure the software's adequate performance. The Department will complete the collection of raw data and post trail access information signage at all Class 1 trails within two years of the software's wide release.

- The Department shall seek to inform park visitors about trails by providing information about its trails on the departmental website and at other Internet sites such as The California Trail Connection, or Trail Explorer⁵, currently being developed. Within certain park units the Department will explore the prospect of testing informational kiosks that offer interactive touch screens to inform users of trail conditions.
- Once adopted, the Department shall incorporate the federal guidelines for accessible trails into all aspects of trails training, including the Department Trails Manual.
- The Department will establish a method of review to ensure that all trail projects receive adequate review for compliance with the guidelines for accessible trails.
- Input from our visitors, and especially those visitors with disabilities, is important to meet the needs of our customers and to provide appropriate access. The Department shall continue to work with members of the community who have disabilities to establish the effectiveness of the proposed guidelines and barrier free trails.
- The Department shall continue to train personnel on trail construction, maintenance and management. While Trail Coordinators from every administrative district have completed the training, interdepartmental transfers and attrition may leave some districts without qualified personnel. Each administrative district Superintendent shall be responsible to ensure that Trail Coordinator positions remain occupied and that those persons in charge of the district/sector trails are given adequate staff time to complete their duties.
- Staff in the Statewide Trails Section shall work with field staff to develop administrative district trail programs and lend assistance with grant applications, administration, public relations and technical assistance.
- The Department shall continue to evaluate all trail projects for the highest level of accessibility possible. This action is consistent with emerging design

⁵ Trail Explorer is a searchable web site database, which will convey trail access information over the Internet. It is being developed by Beneficial Designs in partnership with The American Trails Organization and BusinessWare, Inc.

and construction practices and would only be affected by the proficiency of staff.

- The Department's trail coordinators shall be required to attend additional training on accessible trail design and construction so that they are well versed in current design and construction concepts and techniques.